

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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S/S - LCJOHNSTONE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: PRC COMMENT ON MAYAGUEZ OPERATION

REF: TOSEC 10192

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BY "NCNA
CORRESPONDENT" RELEASED MAY 21. COMMENTS BY SEPTTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS WASHINGTON HAS BEEN MAKING A
GREAT HULLABALOO ABOUT THE RECENT U.S. ARMED INVASION OF
CAMBODIA, GIVING MUCH PUBLICITY TO ITS SO-CALLED "NEWS OF
VICTORY" AND PRESENTING ITSELF AS A "GIANT." THIS IS A
TYPICAL FARCE IN SELF-CONSOLATION, WRITTEN AND STAGED
SINGLE-HANDED BY THE VERY SUPERPOWER WHICH THE SMALL
INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES COMPLETELY DEFEATED. AS REPORTED BY
RADIO PHNOM PENH ON MAY 18, CAMBODIAN FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN
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FIVE U.S. HELICOPTERS AND KILLED OR WOUNDED MORE THAN 30
U.S. SOLDIERS. THIS IS THE "EXPLOITS" IN WASHINGTON'S
"NEWS OF VICTORY."

FOR ITS OWN POLITICAL NEED, THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTS THE DEFEAT AS A VICTORY AND INDULGES IN SELF-GLORIFICATION. LET US TAKE A LOOK AT THIS "VICTORY" SO NOISILY ADVERTISED BY THE UNITED STATES.

PANJANDRUMS IN WASHINGTON SAW THE INTRUSION INTO CAMBODIA'S TERRITORIAL SEA AS AN ACT "IMPROVING THE U.S. IMAGE IN THE WORLD." THE U.S. IMAGE DOES INDEED NEED TO BE IMPROVED. ITS INDOCHINA FIASCO HAS DETAILED THE IMAGE OF THE U.S. PAPER TIGER. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FEELS COMPELLED TO "IMPROVE" THE IMAGE, TO MAKE IT LOOK MORE FORMIDABLE, MORE CHARMING. BUT ITS DEFEAT IN CAMBODIA ONLY GAVE THE PAPER TIGER NEW SIGNS OF WEAR AND TEAR AND BROUGHT OUT MORE CLEARLY THE U.S. IMAGE OF A PIRATE. PROTESTING VOICES WERE RAISED ALL OVER THE WORLD; THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED IN THAILAND IN DAILY PROTESTS AGAINST U.S. PIRACY. THE PEOPLES OF ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA CONDEMNED IT; THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES DENOUNCED IT; WEST EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION CRITICIZED IT. THE U.S. IMAGE HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY BLACKENED BY THE SMOKE OF ITS OWN GUNBOATS.

AMONG THOSE TRYING, OPENLY OR SECRETLY, TO WHITEWASH THE U.S. IMAGE, ARE THE APOLOGISTS FROM MOSCOW. REPORTING THE DISPATCH OF U.S. MARINES FOR THE CAMBODIA INVASION BY THE PENTAGON, TASS SAID, "THIS STEP WAS TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE DETENTION BY A CAMBODIAN VESSEL OF AN AMERICAN SHIP IN THE AREA OF CAMBODIA'S COAST." TASS TAKES CARE HERE TO USE "AREA OF CAMBODIA'S COAST" RATHER THAN "CAMBODIA'S TERRITORIAL SEA" FOR OBVIOUS REASONS OF ITS OWN.

WASHINGTON SEEKS COMFORT IN ITS CAMBODIAN ADVENTURE, LOOKING TO IT TO "BOOST MORALE" AND MEND THE DOMESTIC RIFTS WIDENED BY THE INDO-CHINA DEFEAT, IMPROVE THE CONGRESSIONAL CLIMATE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND EASE THE BICKERINGS AMONG THE RULING FACTIONS. OF COURSE, THIS IS UNCLASSIFIED

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JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF WISHFUL THINKING.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE VOICED INDIGNANT PROTESTS IN DIVERSE FORMS, HOLDING MEETINGS, WRITING LETTERS AND CONTRIBUTING ARTICLES TO THE PRESS TO CONDEMN THE U.S. PIRACY AND PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AGAINST AGGRESSION. IN THE AMERICAN PRESS, ALONGSIDE THE SHOUTED HOORAYS FOR THE U.S. ACTION, WERE MANY WRITERS WHO TOOK THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TASK AND BLASTED ITS BEHAVIOUR AS "FOOLISH." AMERICAN JURISTS SEE THE INTRUSION INTO CAMBODIA AS A VIOLATION OF INTER-

NATIONAL LAW. THE INCIDENT HAS TOUCHED OFF A NEW STORM

OF CONTROVERSY INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.
THE RIFTS THAT WORRY GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE ANYTHING BUT
MENED.

LET THE GENTLEMEN IN WASHINGTON PRIDE THEMSELVES ON
THEIR WORK. FOR ALL THEIR SELF-GLORIFICATION, THE U.S.
IS MORE TARNISHED TODAY THAN IT WAS A LITTLE OVER A
MONTH AGO WHEN THE UNITED STATES SUFFERED TOTAL DEFEAT BY
THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE.

END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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